Special Duty Allowance to employees belonging to NER

2359. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Departments which are not paying Special Duty Allowance (SDA) to employees belonging to the NER;

(b) the reasons for not paying the SDA; and

(c) the action taken by Government to rectify this anomaly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Special Duty Allowance is admissible to Central Government Civilian employees who have 'All India Transfer Liability' and are posted in the North East Region from outside the region as an incentive to serve in North East Region. All Departments of Central Government are paying Special Duty Allowance to eligible employees fulfilling the prescribed criterion.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of the reply to (a) above.

NPAs of Punjab and Sind Bank

2360. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether while reviewing the performance of Punjab and Sind Bank, the bank authorities were advised to monitor its Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) and to bring them within a reasonable limit in the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details of the NPAs of the bank as on the 31st March, 2001;

(c) the extent to which it has been reduced till date; and

(d) what are future plans especially for the current financial year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Punjab and Sind Bank has reported that its gross NPAs as on 31st March, 2001 was Rs. 1026.15 crores.

(c) Punjab & Sind Bank has reported that it had made gross recoveries of Rs. 63.33 crores during the current financial year upto 31st October, 2001 in its

NPAs by way of upgradation, compromise, write-off and actual cash recovery. However, due to fresh slippages the gross NPAs of the bank as on 30th September, 2001 was Rs. 1,088.24 crores.

(d) Reserve Bank of India has reported that Punjab & Sind Bank has projected to reduce its gross NPAs to Rs. 984.69 crores as on 31st March, 2002.

Amount collected under small savings schemes

†2361. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount collected so far this year under the small savings schemes in comparison to the last three years together with the scheme-wise amount likely to be collected up to the end of current financial year;

(b) whether it is a fact that less amount is being deposited by people in these small saving schemes due to reduction of rate of interest in these schemes by Government; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) (I) The gross small savings collections during the current financial year (upto October, 2001) *vis-a-vis* during the same period of previous three financial years are as under :

(In Crores of Rupees)

Year	Gross Collections
2001-02	47814
2000-2001	47477
1999-2000	40328
1998-99	34800

(II) Estimated gross small savings collections during November, 2001 to March, 2002 are Rs. 45936 crore. Scheme-wise break-up is not available.

Valuation Cell of I.T. Department

2362. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.